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The present invention is directed to nitrile-oxide precursor compounds, and their preparation and use as an irreversible cross-linking agent in polymers having appropriate functionality, i.e., alkenes, alkynes nitriles, and isocyanates. The present invention is also directed to the use of nitrile oxide compound in filled or unfilled applications such as pressure sensitive adhesives, reactive hot melts, polyurethane dispersions, thermosetting adhesives, thermoplastic adhesives or coatings.